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Code Is Set Forth

On that date President Eisenhower felt it necessary to tell American fighting men that henceforth they would be governed by a code of conduct that, in essence, detailed their duties as patriots.

Never before in United States history had the fighting men felt the need for such a code.

From the very beginnings of this country it has been assumed that Americans knew their obligations as citizens, that when they went forth to fight they knew why.

It was assumed that Americans had been reared in the tradition of Capt. Nathan Hale, who said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Indeed these assumptions generally held true through seven major wars. In the eighth, Korea, they were knocked into a cocked hat.

For the first time the United States encountered in the Chinese Communists an enemy who not only sought to convince Americans they were wrong, but who undertook actively to manipulate the minds of Americans until they were convinced they were wrong.

Why the services feel they must educate their men in the American system of government, history, ideals, traditions and citizenship is a story that begins April 20, 1953.

On that sunny but slightly hazy day the Chinese Communists and the United Nations forces began exchanging sick and wounded prisoners at Panmunjon, site of the Korean truce talks.

By the end of the day they all had been transported the ten miles from Panmunjon to the railroad at Munsan, just inside the lines of the First Marine Division on the western front.

Even before the exchange began it had become clear that something was profoundly amiss. Week in and week out the American forces had been monitoring pre-Communist propaganda broadcasts—made by Americans who had been captured.

Never before in history had so many captured Americans gone to the aid of the enemy.

At Munsan the services began the task of analyzing the performance of every American taken prisoner.

A few of the returned prisoners that day were interviewed by American newspaper and television reporters. It quickly became obvious that some of these men apparently had bought the Communist propaganda line.

For two years the services studied the records of the prisoners. What they found was not pretty.

A total of 7,190 Americans were captured. Of these 200 were Army troops, 283 were Marines, 231 Air Force, 48 Navy men. Most were captured in the early days of the fighting, before the lines became stabilized.

In every war in American history some men have man-

exception. The Communists used Americans to spy on other Americans until escape plots were known to the enemy almost as soon as they were hatched.

One in Three Collaborated

Roughly one of every three American prisoners collaborated with the Communists in some way, either as informers or as propagandists.

In the twenty prison camps 2,730 of the 7,190 Americans died, the highest mortality rate among prisoners in United States history. Many of them died unnecessarily. They either did not know how to take care of themselves or they just lay down and quit. Some sick or wounded died of malnutrition, abandoned by their comrades.

Discipline among Americans was almost nonexistent. It was a case of dog eat dog for food, cigarettes, blankets, clothes. Many officers and noncommissioned officers refused to accept the responsibility of leadership.

For the first time in history Americans—twenty-one of them—swallowed the enemy's propaganda line and declined to return to their own people.

In its final report a ten-man Department of Defense committee said:

"The committee heard evidence which revealed that many of the prisoners knew too little about the United States—its ideals and traditions."

"It seemed that all prisoners in question had been battle before they joined the service. Good citizens, loyal Americans, the responsibility for their building lies with the home, the school, the church, the community. When men enter the armed forces, the military services must carry on with this development."

The ink scarcely was dry on the report before the armed services, especially the Army, set out to teach men the things they should have learned long before.

Day in and day out it is hammered home to the men:

1. You should be prepared to die for your country.
2. You should never surrender voluntarily. You should fight as long as you have the means to resist.
3. If captured, you must make every effort to escape. You must not accept parole or special favors from the enemy. Even in prison camp you are bound by discipline. You must never betray your buddies.
4. You should give the enemy no helpful information.
5. While a prisoner you are responsible for your actions. This training in the soldier's responsibility to his country and in citizenship begins almost with the day he enters the service.

TROOPS TRAINED
IN CAPTIVE CODE

Services Indoctrinate Men
in Patriotism to Build Up
Resistance if Captured

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (AP)—The Russians call it political indoctrination. We call it troop indoctrination.

However harsh it may sound, the United States armed services, especially the Army, feel compelled to teach Americans that in wartime their country comes before self.

Further, the services feel it is imperative to convince men that their way of life as free Americans is superior to the tyranny of communism and hence worth fighting for.

The services, in brief, no longer assume that every man comes to them a disheartened patriot.

Thus we have the strange spectacle of Americans using every weapon in the arsenal of propaganda and psychological warfare—lectures, movies, posters, pamphlets, discussion groups and books—on other Americans.

This has been going on quietly for the last two years in this country and wherever American troops are stationed from Germany to Japan. The closer the troops are to the potential Communist enemy, the more intensive the education.

The Communists have been using the same techniques on their fighting men for the last forty years. In both cases the object is to produce a reliable fighting man.

A great tradition died in these United States Aug. 15, 1953, of wounds suffered in Korea.